

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. M: 35/92

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

Moxley-Taplin House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

3712 Thornapple Street

not for publication

city, town

Chevy Chase

vicinity of

state

Maryland

county

Montgomery

3. Classification

Category

district)

☒ building(s)

structure

site

object

Ownership

public

☒ private

both

Present Use

agriculture

commercial

educational

entertainment

government

industrial

military

museum

park

☒ private residence

religious

scientific

transportation

other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

Michael J. and E. H. Eig

street & number

3712 Thornapple Street

telephone no:

city, town

Chevy Chase

state and zip code Maryland 20815

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Montgomery County Courthouse Tax Map and Parcel

HN342; Lot 16, B1.1

city, town Rockville

state Maryland

Liber and Folio 05768/0294

6. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Individually Listed in the National Register
- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
- ☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- ☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register
- ☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
- ☐ HSR or Research report at MHT
- ☐ Other:

7. Description

Survey No.

M:35/92

Condition

☒ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ altered

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count:

See attached.

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/92 Moxley-Taplin House (1898)
3712 Thornapple Street
Section 7:2

The Moxley-Taplin House, built in 1898, is located on a 12,200 square foot lot on Thornapple Street (formerly Percy Street) in Otterbourne, a subdivision platted in 1894 and later absorbed into the Village of Chevy Chase, Section 5. The 2-1/2 story house is a relatively early example of the Colonial Revival Four Square style, with Queen Anne-influenced decorative features, and retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

Facing north on Thornapple Street, the primary elevation is five bays wide and retains its original full-width porch. The hipped flat-topped roof, which formerly supported a widow's walk, is clad with slate fishtail shingles and there is a gable roof dormer with double windows at the roof line. The second story slightly overhangs the first. The siding is cedar shake and windows on each level are 1/1 sash.

The cornice is embellished with garland swags and eaves and supported with modillions. Complementary decorative detailing is repeated above the dormer windows. Oversize double front doors have frosted glazing in the upper panels.

The one-story porch is supported by classical columns and the railing features Queen Anne-style turned spindles.

8. Significance

Survey No. M:35/92

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education
	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering
	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> law
		<input type="checkbox"/> literature
		<input type="checkbox"/> military
		<input type="checkbox"/> music
		<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
		<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion
		<input type="checkbox"/> science
		<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
		<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
		<input type="checkbox"/> theater
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
1898	

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type: Individual

Category: Residential

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Residential

Known Design Source:

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/92 Moxley-Taplin House (1898)
3712 Thornapple Street
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The Moxley-Taplin House was the first of three houses built by Rosalier Moxley in the Otterbourne subdivision between 1898 and 1899. In December 1897 Moxley, who was at that time a resident of Washington DC, purchased Lot 16 and the eastern half of Lot 17 from Eugene B. Clark, an early resident of Otterbourne. Tax records indicate that the house was built early in 1898 because the property was assessed that year with improvements valued at \$1,300 and household furnishings of \$200.¹

In November 1898 Moxley, purchasing an adjacent parcel, was described as an Otterbourne resident. She sold the property to Horatio N. Taplin of Washington DC in December 1901. Horatio and his wife, Lillie Taplin, sold the property in July 1904. Taplin had a real estate, insurance, and loan business in Washington.²

From 1904 until 1907, the property was owned by Francis and Julia Sharp. In addition to the house and Lot 16, the Sharps owned undeveloped Lot 15 and part of Lot 17. The Sharps had previously owned two other Otterbourne houses, 3706 and 3708 Thornapple, in 1901. When the Sharps sold the property the dwelling was described as a "fourteen room frame slate roofed dwelling house which has a range and hot & cold water and basement and furnace" all in first class repair.³

Otterbourne is a subdivision established in the Chevy Chase area by four investors: Robert E. Earll, Eugene B. Clark, Raymond Geare, and John Frank Ellis. The men purchased 14.4 acres from the Williams family in 1892, two years after the Chevy Chase Land Company purchased land to the south and west. For convenience, the plat for Otterbourne was filed under Ellis' name. The H-shaped plat was made in July 1894, oriented toward Brookville Road, an important early transportation route. The investors divided the lots among themselves, each one receiving a number equivalent to their respective interest in the original tract of land. Clark and Earll were the only two of the four to build and reside in Otterbourne.⁴

Otterbourne investors clearly saw the advantage of the property's location immediately

¹Deed JA60:479, 12/9/1897. Tax assessment records, Annapolis, Maryland.

²Deeds JA60:479, 12/9/1898, TD19: 199, 12/21/1901, TD6:211, 11/11/1898. Washington City Directories, 1900-02.

³Deeds 178:228, 7/2/1904;192:171, 1/7/1907.

⁴Equity Case #2400, 8-24-1908, describes the history of Otterbourne and its investors.

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/92 Moxley-Taplin House (1898)
3712 Thornapple Street
Section 8:3

adjacent to the Land Company's development. The name Otterbourne is a reference to the medieval Ballad of Chevy Chase, which had been the origin for the name of the Chevy Chase Land Company's real estate enterprise. It was on the plains of Otterbourne in Scotland that the armies of Lord James Douglas and Sir Henry Percy met in their fabled battle. Otterbourne benefitted from its close proximity to the Rock Creek Railway (1890), which ran along the newly established Connecticut Avenue. Early residents had access to the trolley by way of a boardwalk from Delaware Street (formerly Dalkeith) to Connecticut Avenue. Otterbourne was absorbed into Section 5, and by the 1920s the east-west cross streets were extended out to Connecticut Avenue and Percy Street was renamed Thornapple Street.⁵

Today the Moxley-Taplin House is situated on Lot 16 and part of Lots 15 and 17 on a total of 12,200 square feet of land.

⁵Gwen Wright et al. "Chevy Chase, Maryland, Survey District: Survey Report: Phase Two," Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, June 1997. Otterbourne Plat, Plat Book 1: Page 1[Filed July 9, 1894]. William Offutt, History of Bethesda, pp. 173-4.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M: 35/92

See attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 12,200 Sq. Ft.

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Clare Lise Cavicchi, Historic Preservation Planner		
organization	Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission	date	1/98
street & number	8787 Georgia Avenue	telephone	301-563-3400
city or town	Silver Spring	state	Maryland 20910-3760

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/92 Moxley-Taplin House (1898)
3712 Thornapple Street
Section 9:2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Census, U. S. 1910 and 1920.

Directories:

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- Caldwell, S. D. *Directory of Bethesda District* (Bethesda, Md), 1911 and 1915.
- Nelson, Justus C. *Nelson's Suburban Directory* (Washington, D.C.), 1912-1913.
- Polk, R. L. *Polk's Washington Suburban Directory* (Washington, D.C.) 1927-1928.

Equity Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.

Fisher, Thos. J. *Chevy Chase for Homes*. Washington, D.C.: Thos. J. Fisher & C., 1916.

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Maps:

- Caldwell, S.D. *Map of Bethesda District*, 1915
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- Fava Naeff. *Real Estate Map of the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad*, 1890.
- Hopkins, G.M. *Northern Virginia and Bethesda*, 1894.
- Klingé. *Real Estate Atlas*, 1931 and 1941.
- Martenet and Bond. *Map of Montgomery County, Maryland*, 1865.
- Maryland Geological Survey Map. Bethesda & Vicinity, 1910.
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Secondary Sources:

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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3712 Thornapple Street
Section 9:3

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Wright, Gwen; William B. Bushong; and Clare Lise Cavicchi; "Chevy Chase, Maryland, Survey District: Survey Report: Phase Two," Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, June 1997.

Wyatt, Barbara (Editor) "Surveying and Evaluating Vernacular Architecture." Midwest Vernacular Architecture Committee. National Register Bulletin 31, Draft. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1987.

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M:35/92 Moxley-Taplin House (1898)
3712 Thornapple Street



VICINITY MAP FOR

OTTERBOURNE

M: 35-92



Map compiled on January 13, 1998 at 10:50 AM

NOTICE

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
2707 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-4700

Key Map

